

Message Text

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ACTION IO-11

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FM AMEMBASSY ANKARA

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C O N F I D E N T I A L ANKARA 1524

E.O.11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, UN, TU

SUBJECT: MULTILATERAL AFFAIRS: TURKISH INTERESTS

REF: STATE 37591

1. FOLLOWING IS IN RESPONSE TO PARAGRAPH 7 OF REFTEL AND
IS KEYED TO SUBPARAGRAPHS:

(A) TURKEY'S PRIMARY OBJECTIVE IN MULTILATERAL AFFAIRS
IN 1976 PROBABLY WILL CONTINUE TO BE BROADER SUPPORT FOR ITS
CYPRUS POLICY. A COROLLARY WILL BE AN ATTEMPT TO WEAKEN OR
NEUTRALIZE SUPPORT FOR GREECE AND THE GREEK CYPRIOTS ON THIS ISSUE.
A SECONDARY CONCERN (AND A RELATED ON) WILL BE
SUPPORT FOR TURKEY'S POSITION REGARDING THE
AEGEAN CONTINENTAL SHELF. WITH RESPECT TO CANDIDACIES, WE
HAVE JUST RECEIVED A NOTE REQUESTING SUPPORT FOR TURKISH
CANDIDACY AS A VICE PRESIDENT OF THE 31ST UNGA (AIRGRAM
FOLLOWS).

(B) IN IT DECISION MAKING PROCESS, TURKEY IS SOMEWHAT
RESPONSIVE TO THE COMMON MARKET, NATO AND THE MEMBER
COUNTRIES OF THESE ORGANIZATIONS. IT IS SOMEWHAT LESS
(BUT INCREASINGLY) RESPONSIVE TO THE VIEWS OF ITS CENTO
COLLEAGUES AND OF THE MEMBERS OF THE ISLAMIC WORLD. IN
MAY, 1976, TURKEY IS HOSTING THE ANNUAL ISLAMIC CONFERENCE
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AND WILL UNDOUBTEDLY UTILIZE THIS OCCASION TO TRY TO

INFLUENCE THIS GROUP TO SUPPORT TURKISH POSITIONS.
TURKEY CANNOT COMMAND THE CERTAIN SUPPORT OF ANY OTHER
COUNTRY ON SPECIFIC ISSUES, BUT IT IS NOT WITHOUT INFLUENCE.

(C) TURKISH DELEGATIONS TO MAJOR INTERNATIONAL MEETINGS
ARE NORMALLY FULLY INSTRUCTED ON ALL ISSUES EXPECTED TO BE
DISCUSSED AT THOSE MEETINGS. AS A GENERAL RULE, TURKISH
DIPLOMATS DO NOT DEVIATE FROM THEIR INSTRUCTIONS.
COMMUNICATIONS BETWEEN ANKARA AND MAJOR CAPITALS ARE FAIRLY
RAPID AND THE TURKISH MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS IS
RELAIVELY EFFICIENT IN PROVIDING GUIDANCE TO PARTICIPANTS
AT INTERNATIONAL MEETINGS. FOR THIS REASON REPRESENTATIONS
IN ANKARA CAN BE USEFUL IF THERE IS AT LEAST A 48-HOUR
LEAD TIME.

(D) TURKISH PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVES AT THE UNITED
NATIONS AND AT OTHER INTERNATIONAL INSTITUTIONS ARE CAREER
FOREIGN SERVICE OFFICERS. ALTHOUGH SOME OF THEM HAVE
SUBSTANTIAL PRESTIGE AND INFLUENCE WITHIN THE MINISTRY
OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS, NONE OF THEM HAS SUFFICIENT PERSONAL
POLITICAL POWER TO IGNORE INSTRUCTIONS OF THE GOVERNMENT.

(E) THE TURKISH GOVERNMENT HAS NORMALLY BEEN
RECEPTIVE TO U.S. REPRESENTATIONS ON MULTILATERAL ISSUES.
TURKEY HAS GENERALLY BEEN VERY COOPERATIVE IN AREAS WHERE
THE INTERESTS OF TURKEY AND THE U.S. DO NOT CONFLICT. IN
RETURN, TURKEY HAS SOUGHT AND OFTEN EXPECTED SUPPORT FOR
POLICIES IT DEEMS PARTICULARLY IMPORTANT. IN GENERAL, TURKEY
STILL CONSIDERS THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN THE U.S. AND TURKEY
IN MULTILATERAL AFFAIRS TO BE A CLOSE AND MUTUALLY BENEFICIAL
ONE; HOWEVER, AS TURKEY ATTEMPTS TO EXPAND SUPPORT FOR HER
POLICIES AMONG THIRD WORLD COUNTRIES, TURKISH AND U.S.
INTERESTS WILL COME INCREASINGLY INTO CONFLICT (TURKISH
VOTE ON ZIONISM IS AN EXAMPLE OF THIS TREND). THUS
WHILE WE DO NOT EXPECT TURKEY TO ENGAGE IN GRATUITOUS
OPPOSITION TO THE U.S. IN MULTILATERAL FORUMS, WE DO EXPECT
TURKEY WILL INCREASINGLY SEE HER INTERESTS AS REQUIRING
HER TO OPPOSE U.S. POSITIONS.

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